

WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE

WISHA Services

Department of Labor and Industries

2.60

ASBESTOS PROJECT INSPECTION TARGETING

Date Issued: December 28, 2000

I. Background

Asbestos exposures in the workplace have been a significant hazard to health, particularly during construction and maintenance activities handling asbestos-containing building materials. In response to this hazard, the Washington State Legislature required certification of contractors and personnel handling asbestos containing materials (RCW 49.26). Projects involving asbestos or asbestos-containing materials must be reported to the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) before they begin. One purpose of this prior reporting is to allow appropriate targeting of asbestos enforcement resources.

II. Scope and Application

This policy provides guidance to WISHA industrial hygiene compliance supervisors in assigning inspections based on project notifications. It supersedes all previous guidance on this subject, whether formal or informal. Specifically, it replaces Section V of WRD 23.10, issued April 30, 1997.

III. Special Enforcement Protocols

A. How will L&I establish priorities for inspection of asbestos abatement contractors?

The asbestos specialist in WISHA P&TS will review contractor records on a quarterly basis to establish asbestos inspection priorities. A determination will be made based on the records placing contractors into high (very poor compliance history), medium (poor compliance history and/or lack of inspection) or low (good compliance history based on actual inspections conducted) priority for inspection. In making this determination, he or she will review the following objective information:

- Number and severity of asbestos related citations issued (past year)
- Number and severity of all citations issued (past year)
- Number of projects conducted (past year)
- Work hours reported by the contractor (past year)
- Time since last inspection
- Number of inspections conducted (past three years)

Each Industrial Hygiene Regional Supervisor will schedule programmed inspections for projects conducted by contractors on the high priority list as resources and schedule permits. Where resources remain, inspections may be scheduled for contractors on the medium priority list. Programmed inspections will not normally be scheduled for contractors on the low priority list, although complaint and referral inspections will be conducted in normal fashion.

Extraordinary projects, in either scope or method, should be evaluated for special consideration in scheduling programmed inspections.

The regional supervisors will coordinate scheduling of programmed inspections between the regions when a contractor is active in several regions simultaneously.

B. How will programmed inspections of property owners be assigned?

Additional programmed inspections may be scheduled for projects conducted by property owners on their own buildings and facilities. Scheduling of these inspections should be based on priorities similar to those used for contractors.

C. How will programmed inspections of homeowners conducting asbestos removal be assigned?

Homeowners conducting removal in their own homes will not be scheduled for programmed inspections (but may be subject to complaint or referral inspections).

Approved: _____

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For further information about this or other WISHA Regional Directives, you may contact WISHA Policy & Technical Services at P.O. Box 44648 or by telephone at (360)902-5503. You also may review policy information on the WISHA Website (<http://www.wa.gov/lni/wisha>).